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OUR EDUCATION IS GLOBAL.
**OUR WORK ETHIC,
CHICAGO.**

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY
HERE, WE DO.



INTELLECTUAL CURIOSITY
SPARKED HERE.

INSIGHTS

A publication for College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences alumni



HERE, WE BUILD THE FUTURE BY GIVING BACK



SPRING 2020

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HERE WE CONTINUE TO DO ... BY GIVING BACK



Photo by Tom Evans

Welcome to the first issue of Insights for 2020. As I write this letter, all of our lives have been upended by the COVID-19 pandemic. If anything, this crisis has underscored the essential role we all play in establishing and maintaining our shared well-being and reminded us of the critical need to support one another and give back to our communities.

Last year, we chose, perhaps serendipitously, to dedicate this issue to the theme of giving back—especially the ways in which our alumni, friends, faculty and students give their time, talents and material gifts to support others.

The plans to take our culture of giving to the next level. The blueprint on the next page shows our vision for a robust partnership that allows our alumni to contribute dynamically to the success of LAS students and programs, while also allowing us to recognize and celebrate your achievements and commitment to making the world a better place.

ALUMNI RECOGNITION

Our new Honors Society, which is composed of leaders from our Advisory Board, looks forward to inaugurating our first alumni awards series for Distinguished and Outstanding Alumni as soon as we can come together again. Our goal is to celebrate the notable achievements by LAS alumni in their careers and service, and, by doing so, to identify them as role models for future generations.

ALUMNI EVENTS

The college is working to bring you LAS's first Alumni Symposium, where we will feature presentations and alumni roundtables.

ALUMNI MENTORSHIP

One of the most powerful ways that alumni can give back to the college is to mentor current students. Over the coming year, we will be expanding our current engagement through Alumni Connections, by which you can connect with students as mentors, work with faculty and contribute to projects nested in many of our classes.

ALUMNI PHILANTHROPY

Finally, we will be asking our alumni in a position to make a financial gift to LAS to become Alumni Supporters. Through these gifts, we can develop new programs aligned with pressing needs, support students in need of scholarships and enhance our commitment to the experiential liberal arts across the curriculum. I know that DePaul's Vincentian tradition of compassionate, active engagement will stand us all in good stead in the coming year. The liberal arts have empowered you, and we hope you will continue to help us deliver that gift of empowerment to our students.

Be safe and well, and, as always, may the liberal arts be with you.

Guillermo

Guillermo Vásquez de Velasco, Dean

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Blueprint for LAS Alumni Engagement



Alumni Recognition
Future:
Distinguished &
Outstanding Alumni

Alumni Events
Future:
Alumni Symposium

Alumni Mentorship
Future:
Alumni Connections

Alumni Philanthropy
Future:
Alumni Supporters

HOME COMING

Lance Pelletier comes back to the Honors Program as an honored guest

Having grown up in the small town of North Conway, N.H., Lance Pelletier (English '06) knew he wanted to attend a university in a big city but with the intimacy of a smaller program.

DePaul's Honors Program was the perfect fit.

"I didn't want to get lost in a class that was bigger than the town I grew up in," he says. "The Honors Program offered leadership opportunities, small classroom sizes, individualized instruction and Chicago as the larger classroom. All of that really spoke to me, and it seemed like a really awesome opportunity."

Nearly 15 years after graduating, Pelletier returned to DePaul as the featured speaker for the annual Honors Speaker Series on Oct. 25, 2019. An attorney based in Seattle, he recently argued and won a case before the U.S. Supreme Court on Native American treaty rights.

"His life is an example of my highest hopes for the honors students—to use knowledge in the service of others in a way that changes the world," says Martha Martinez-Firestone, associate professor of sociology and director of the Honors Program. "And he does all of this with humility and respect for the dignity of others."

A Powerful Time

The sun suddenly poked out of the clouds the moment Pelletier arrived at DePaul for the new student open house.

It was a good sign.

For the next four years, Pelletier lapped up everything: his studies, his relationship with students and faculty, and the chance to explore the city. As one of the first members of Honors Student Government, he served as vice president in 2004–05 and president in 2005–06. A Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) member, he was also recognized as a leader and outstanding graduate by the Chicago "Fire Battalion" ROTC program and the DePaul English Department.

Looking back, Pelletier says that what stands out for him were the experiential service opportunities DePaul builds into the university experience. One in particular was cycling across the city twice a week to get to the West Side to help run an after-school program.

"It was a really powerful experience," he says. "It was an opportunity to really engage with this community, and it gave me broader exposure and empathy for other communities."

Following his graduation in 2006, Pelletier spent the next five years on active duty, achieving the rank of captain. His service included more than a year's deployment to Afghanistan, where he directed cross-border operations along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.



**HIS LIFE IS AN EXAMPLE OF MY
HIGHEST HOPES FOR THE HONORS
STUDENTS—TO USE KNOWLEDGE IN
THE SERVICE OF OTHERS.**

—MARTHA MARTINEZ-FIRESTONE

Pelletier acknowledges that his Army experience was difficult and often frustrating, but he appreciates how it offered him an opportunity for growth. "DePaul provided us with problems, but taught us to solve them and put us in a position to succeed. The Army was a completely different experience. [In Afghanistan] we faced problems that were incredibly challenging, that had never been solved before. Add to this the fact that we were living far away from home and learning a culture and a language not our own," he says.

After completing his service in 2011, Pelletier received his JD degree from the University of Washington in 2014. He clerked for Washington State Supreme Court Justice Charlie Wiggins and then joined the firm Stokes Lawrence, which represented a Yakama Nation elder in the 2018 case *Washington State Dept. of Licensing v. Cougar Den, Inc.*

The Power of the Liberal Arts

A year after the Supreme Court case, Pelletier stood before a different audience: Honors Program students at DePaul.

He delved into the details of this complicated case involving treaty rights, travel and fuel taxation, reminding students that at its core, taxation is an exercise in power over another.



Lance Pelletier (back row, third from right) poses outside the U.S. Supreme Court with members of the Yakama Nation, plaintiffs in *Washington State Dept. of Licensing v. Cougar Den, Inc.*

IT WAS WONDERFUL TO COME BACK TO TALK TO AND SEE THIS COMMUNITY AGAIN, AND SEE HOW MUCH THE HONORS PROGRAM HAS GROWN."

—LANCE PELLETIER

But Pelletier also went further, sharing what it felt like to argue before the Supreme Court, his deep appreciation for and interactions with the Yakama people and how his LAS degree has given him the foundation he needed to succeed.

"This was a great case to talk about at the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences because a lot of this case was not something that relied on legal training specifically. A lot of the work in this case is historical work, such as using primary sources for evidence," he says.

For Connor Druhan, a senior majoring in jazz studies and English who plans on attending law school, Pelletier's talk was inspiring. "The thing that stood out for me as an English major and someone from the Honors Program is how his discussion of the case was grounded in what we already do here," he explains. "A lot of us think of law as staying within all of these conventions and rules and giant textbooks, but the way that he discussed this case was very much from the position of the ideas behind the case and why they were important."

As for Pelletier, speaking at DePaul has been a homecoming.

"I love DePaul. I loved my experience here. I loved going to these lectures when I was a student. It was wonderful to come back to talk to and see this community again, and see how much the Honors Program has grown," he says.



Lance Pelletier returned to DePaul to discuss the Supreme Court case with LAS Honors students.



Pelletier talks with his client, Chairman JoDe Goudy of the Yakama Nation Tribal Council.

LAS ALUMNI: *Out in the world*

MARIA ARIAS

When Maria Arias (Political Science '83) toured colleges throughout Chicago, she noticed there was no one on most of the campuses who looked like her.

Then she visited DePaul.

"They had tables in the cafeteria, and one was for a Hispanic student organization. I immediately connected with that and knew this was where I wanted to go," says Arias.

"DePaul had a welcoming and diverse environment, and it helped me feel comfortable and be successful," says Arias, who was named a 2017 Distinguished Alumna by Pi Sigma Alpha, the Political Science Honor Society.

Arias, who was 4 when her family immigrated to Chicago from Mexico, knew from a young age that she wanted to be a lawyer. After receiving her JD from Northwestern, she started her legal career at McDermott Will & Emery and eventually made partner.

Arias then transitioned to a role as in-house counsel with AT&T, and she stayed in the communications field for more than two decades.

At AT&T, she was given the chance to build a regulatory team.

"It was just an amazing opportunity to get exposure to all aspects of the law. I was trying cases, building and developing teams, and managing outside lawyers," she recalls.

The growth of the internet in the late 1990s changed the entire field. Arias took on cable law, which she found to be a "wonderful mix of law, public policy and politics."

After various mergers, Arias was tapped to establish a corporate diversity department for Comcast in 2011.

"My job was to create a unified diversity program across all aspects of the business. I built what I call a 'best-in-class diversity program.' It served as the model for what other cable companies have started to do," she says.

What became apparent as Arias worked to help pave the way for more diverse workplaces and programming was that these internal efforts were also good for business. Just as Arias chose DePaul because she saw people like her, viewers tune in to cable more often when the programs reflect people like them, according to Arias.

But making change stick is a long-term project.

"Changing the culture doesn't happen overnight. It happens very strategically. It happens by building relationships, getting



"Changing the culture doesn't happen overnight. It happens very strategically."

—Maria Arias

credibility and helping people understand that it's not about just hitting a number. It's about creating a culture of inclusion," Arias says.

After years of living in a commuter marriage—her husband worked at AT&T and the couple, who have five children between them, lived in different cities and saw each other on weekends—the couple retired and settled in Denver.

Only Arias didn't really retire. Instead, she launched her own consulting business specializing in diversity and inclusion. She also serves as the head of Law School...Yes We Can, a diversity pipeline program for low-income college students who want to attend law school.

For Arias, diversity and inclusion for diverse communities is her life's work.

"My vision is that my daughters won't have to go through what I went through. That my sons are more aware of the issues that working women face. That leaders are open, and that, most importantly, individuals in positions of power understand that sharing power and bringing people along isn't going to diminish theirs, but only enhance theirs and their bottom line," she says.



IRENE BECK

Having come of age in the 1960s and '70s, an era dominated by the civil rights movement, the second-wave feminist movement and protests against the Vietnam War, Irene Beck (Women's Studies Certificate '97) has always been an activist for social justice.

She remembers the pivotal moment when she first became aware of racism.

It was 1949, a few years after World War II ended. She was 4 years old, and the postwar housing shortage that had kept her family in Brooklyn's first low-income housing project was over. Her family was moving to a new subdivision on Long Island. But it was only open to whites; no people of color could own homes there, including Beck's best friend and her family.

That incident left a deep impression on Beck, who has committed the rest of her life to fighting injustices.

Even her academic degrees in history, education, educational administration/supervision and, finally, a doctorate in developmental psychology, was influenced by her commitment to social justice.

"These disparate academic fields were the inner I opened the path to documenting the longevity of social injustices. Educational courses gave me the ability to step into classrooms filled with children of low-income backgrounds. Supervision/administration enabled me to empower teachers to unpack their unexamined biases and create new, egalitarian teaching methods. Developmental psychology provided me with the in-depth learning, research and training I needed to focus on children, youth and their families," she recalls.

During these years of studying and working, Beck was also a single, divorced mother of two sons ("the lights of life").

"We took advantage of ongoing opportunities to get involved with community actions: volunteering at soup kitchens and participating in weekly farm-to-table food co-ops and neighborhood clothing drives," she says.

A joyful remarriage to Bill Beck, with whom she shared not only a blended family, but also a commitment to doing good in the world, eventually paved the way for Irene to do good at DePaul.

In the mid-1990s, she learned about LAS's new graduate certificate program in Women's Studies (now Women's and Gender Studies). Through this program, she developed a deep commitment to the college—and the feeling was mutual.

Irene went on to develop courses on gender and youth as an adjunct faculty member, and in 2002, she and Bill established the Beck Research Initiative for Women, Gender and Community (BRI) at DePaul, which supports a range of community-based programs and research to counteract gender-related oppressions.

"St. Vincent de Paul ... called us to give to those in need, while strengthening our own spirit. That's the motor that still chugs inside us."

—Irene Beck

"What has always inspired me about Irene is that she lives her core truth and core values every day, in all the aspects of her life," says Beth Catlett, associate professor and chair of the Department of Women's and Gender Studies. "Without Irene's vision, commitment and generous support, the BRI would not have been built and would not have had such vibrant growth over these last many years."

The Becks' philanthropy has also provided critical support for another DePaul project that is especially close to their hearts: Big Shoulders Books (BSB). Headed by Associate Professor Miles Harvey in the English department and now part of LAS's Writing and Publishing master's program, BSB publishes quality works by and about Chicagoans whose voices might not otherwise be heard.

"This vital focus at the heart of BSB is what has deeply tied Bill and me to the entire project. DePaul students work on every level of the publishing process, and the books are distributed free of charge. Our funding the costs involved in distributing these books empowers BSB to spread its social justice messages across the globe," she says.

The Becks, who live in Chicago, maintain close ties with their offspring around the country, all of whom are engaged in inspiring projects. "St. Vincent de Paul was a giant in the pantheon of saints as I grew up," Irene recalls. "He called us to give to those in need, while strengthening our own spirit. That's the motor that still chugs inside us."

What Must Be Done?

A unique Honors Program seminar tackles the wicked problem of homelessness from many perspectives

What Guillermo Vásquez de Velasco, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, wanted most was a chance to collaborate.

"Many times we deans have had conversations about how we should collaborate more and how we should teach more," he says. But their administrative duties often prevent them from doing either. So, he thought, what if they all taught the same class?

Such was the seed that launched a novel Honors Program seminar that brought together the deans of all 10 colleges and schools to teach a single course, "Wicked Problems and Multidisciplinary Strategic Thinking: The Homelessness Issue."

The 11-week course taught in the spring of 2019 drew students from six of DePaul's colleges, 20 in all, with 18 different majors ranging from animation and accountancy to Arabic studies. For their final projects, the students worked together to create case studies offering real-life solutions and suggestions for tackling homelessness in Chicago. In addition to its prevalence—86,324 people experienced homelessness in 2017, according to the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless—the subject of homelessness was chosen because it qualifies as a "wicked problem."

"Homelessness was described as a 'wicked problem' in the course description because its multidisciplinary complexity makes it not only systemic, but also fluid," Vásquez de Velasco says. "Wicked problems are difficult to address and certainly not within the field of a specific discipline. There are problems and situations where we need to pool the knowledge base and skill sets of many professionals with many areas of expertise."

At the beginning of the course, staff from DePaul's Institute of Global Homelessness (IGH) and the Depaul USA Dax Program, the latter of which works to end homelessness among college





Having all the deans of a university teach together is unprecedented and is evidence that at DePaul we can collaborate and teach others to collaborate.”

—Guillermo Vásquez de Velasco

students, helped frame the problem. They also showcased international cities that have created policy around the issue of homelessness for student groups to use as case studies. These cities were Medicine Hat, Canada; London; Tshwane, South Africa; Delhi; and Helsinki.

Examining a multilayered problem such as homelessness from multiple perspectives enabled students to embrace its complexity.

“Courses like this help us promote both the model of project-based learning and collaboration between our different colleges,” says Vásquez de Velasco. “We talk about the importance of collaboration, but academic silos get in the way. We cannot address wicked problems from a disciplinary perspective; it has to be multidisciplinary. Having all the deans of a university teach together is unprecedented and is evidence that at DePaul we can bridge between our silos, we can collaborate and, most importantly, we can teach others to collaborate.”

The unique nature of the seminar also enabled each dean to approach the topic from his or her particular area of expertise. For Vásquez de Velasco, who has a doctoral degree in architecture, that meant looking at it through the lens of systems and design thinking, while John Culbert, dean of The Theatre School, developed his lesson around a play about homeless youth, “Polaroid Stories,” by Naomi Iizuka. Ronald Caltabiano, dean of the School of Music, started off his class by playing the Phil Collins song “Another Day in Paradise,” told from the point of view of someone who observes a man crossing the street to ignore a homeless woman.

The final project asked each group to apply what they learned from their international city case study toward a potential solution for Chicago. Several projects focused on a “housing first” model, which provides permanent housing to those experiencing homelessness as a springboard to then begin addressing other issues, like joblessness, substance abuse and making a budget.

Other projects proposed steps to prevent youth homelessness in Chicago, identifying and refurbishing vacant buildings owned by the city or incentivizing Chicago businesses to play a role in ending homelessness.

The Dean’s seminar continued remotely during the shelter-at-home period with a new topic: urban violence.

To see some of the student projects, please visit bit.ly/LAShonors.

HOUSING THE HOMELESS



Desirie McKay (MSW '09) knows all about helping people who are homeless.

Before becoming the coordinator of field education in the Department of Social Work at DePaul, McKay worked as program director for Chicago-based Single Room Housing Assistance Corporation, connecting those experiencing homelessness to permanent supportive housing. She later worked as director of crisis intervention for an emergency shelter program for individuals and families.

“I committed about eight years of my career to helping house the homeless,” recalls McKay, who was part of the first cohort of students to earn a master’s degree in social work from DePaul. During this time, McKay faced many frustrations.

“Although the goal was to end homelessness, there were so many barriers in place from a systems level to really achieving that goal,” she says.

These barriers, which include everything from lease application fees to withholding housing assistance from those struggling with substance abuse, prevented those in need from receiving support. “If we really want to end homelessness, we need to reduce these barriers,” says McKay.

The housing first and harm reduction model adopted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development helped break through some of these barriers by “meeting people where they are. When we adopted this model, we changed all of our policies and procedures. We no longer required an application fee. You did not need an income to get in. All research shows this is the best program model to apply if you really want to end homelessness,” says McKay.

Now McKay brings her expertise to DePaul.

“This role enables me to bring together my experience from so many different facets of social services to help our students find the right path for them after graduation,” she says.

That core foundation formed by helping those experiencing homelessness continues to fuel McKay in her commitment to doing good in the world. “I am big on human rights, and I truly believe housing is a human and basic right for all people,” she says.



ROOTED

IN



PEACE

DEPAUL'S PEACE, JUSTICE
AND CONFLICT STUDIES
PROGRAM CELEBRATES
ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Yolibeth Sandoval came to DePaul University to study journalism, but she quickly realized she wanted to do more than just tell others' stories. Her advisor guided Sandoval to a Peace, Justice and Conflict Studies (PJC) course after hearing about her passions for social justice and community service. The class, and ultimately the program, clicked for Sandoval, helping her chart her course in life.

"The class opened my eyes to what more I can do," says Sandoval, who will graduate from the PJC program, also called PAX, in 2020. "One of the main messages of the PAX program that got across to me is, 'How are you going to be of service to people?' It challenges us to think about what we can do with our own hands, at our own risk, for our own community."

Sandoval already takes these teachings to heart by working with the International Indigenous Youth Council and Semillas y Raices, a North Lawndale organization that focuses on restorative justice and youth outreach. She aims to continue doing similar work after graduation.

The lessons Sandoval learned about human rights and social justice constitute the foundation of PJC's mission. Launched 10 years ago, PJC explores the root causes of violence and ways to resolve diverse conflicts peacefully and justly. Its faculty strive to impart strategies of nonviolence and conflict resolution in interpersonal, intrapersonal, cultural, national and international matters, says Philosophy Professor Mary Jeanne Larrabee, who helped develop the program and led it until 2019.

"It's not just about peace and peaceniks. It's about the fundamental need for human beings to deal with their conflicts in ways that are creative and resolve them without harming each other," Larrabee says. "Peace building, creative intervention in conflict and social justice are part of our mission when there is violence from war, social discrimination and oppression."

Students learn inside and outside the classroom, studying theoretical and historical perspectives and engaging in experiential learning through internships, volunteering and study abroad. After graduation, they apply PJC tenets in numerous fields, including law, social work, health care and global human rights.

LAS began offering a Peace, Conflict Resolution, and Social Justice Studies minor in 2003, led by Religious Studies Associate Professor Tom O'Brien. It began with two courses—a community-based service

learning course and a tools course—and about 10 students. Larrabee took the helm in 2006, steering faculty through the process of creating the PJC major, which was finally approved in 2009.

Today, PJC students pick from a minor, major or combined program with several master's degree options, including nonprofit leadership and refugee and forced migration studies. PJC is thriving, with more than 100 students working toward such degrees, says director Susana Martínez, an associate professor of Spanish and Latin American literature who has been affiliated with PJC for more than a decade.

THE PAX PROGRAM CHALLENGES US TO THINK ABOUT WHAT WE CAN DO WITH OUR OWN HANDS, AT OUR OWN RISK, FOR OUR OWN COMMUNITY.

—YOLIBETH SANDOVAL

"We have amazing faculty and adjunct instructors who are real practitioners," Martínez says. "They are doing justice work in the community, and that sets up partnerships so that our students can take the courses' content and see how it applies in the community. It helps students grow in awareness and see the activism they can participate in."

Adjunct faculty like Jerica Arents, a proponent of nonviolence and social justice, and Tomas Ramirez, who advocates for indigenous cultures and communities, demonstrate how they turn theory into action. Senior Professional Lecturer Ken Butigan has spent decades participating in peace movements, including nonviolently protesting nuclear weapons and advocating at the Vatican with the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative. The organization encourages the

Catholic Church to actively promote the practices of nonviolence around the world and to create a culture of peace.

Teaching at DePaul since 2007, Butigan enjoys sharing perspectives on peace with the full spectrum of students. He introduces first-year students to PJC through the Discover Nonviolent Chicago course and later synthesizes the program's teachings during the senior capstone, watching students develop into proponents of peaceful conflict resolution and agents of nonviolent change.

"This program equips us to deal peacefully with the conflicts in our lives, in our communities, in our nation and the world," Butigan says. "My long-term goal is to see that students, faculty and administrators get the ability to transform conflict and create useful alternatives that will help with whatever they do in the future."

Alexandria Boutros (PJC '18) appreciated the freedom to study multidisciplinary subjects and get deeply involved in Chicago. While volunteering for organizations focused on human rights, voting rights and housing and education equality, Boutros applied the material she learned and made connections that led to her full-time job. She is a community organizer at Chicago Votes focusing on voting rights, especially in the criminal justice system.

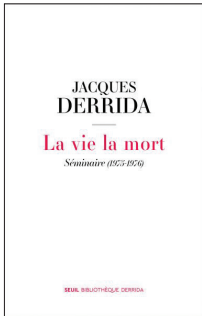
"I think PAX, in so many ways, got me to where I am today," says Boutros, adding that participating in the Inside-Out program of inmate education at Stateville Correctional Center was particularly meaningful. "Having access to that program catapulted me into this kind of work."

Jake Wild Crea (PJC '15) also benefited from PJC experiences like Inside-Out and studying abroad in Argentina. Having arrived at DePaul with a social justice orientation, Wild Crea says PJC gave him the language and skills to engage effectively in such work. Today, Wild Crea works for Arabella Advisors in Chicago, where he provides project and grant management to nonprofits.

"PAX taught me how to approach people, systems and justice in a way that fundamentally questions the systems that we have," Wild Crea adds.

Now that hundreds of PJC alumni are out in the larger world, the program's influence is being felt in diverse arenas locally, nationally and globally. They are showing how to put Vincentian values into action, united by a love for peace, nonviolence and justice.

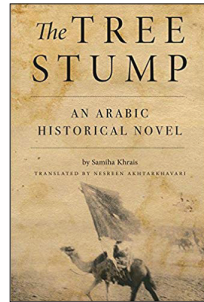
FACULTY PUBLICATIONS



LA VIE LA MORT

Pascale-Anne Brault, a professor in the Department of Modern Languages, has co-edited the French edition of Jacques Derrida's "La vie la mort" with Peggy Kamuf, a professor at the University of

Southern California. One of Jacques Derrida's richest and most provocative works, "La vie la mort" challenges and deconstructs one of the most deeply rooted dichotomies of Western thought: life and death. (Éditions du Seuil, 2019)



THE TREE STUMP: AN ARABIC HISTORICAL NOVEL

Nesreen Akhtarkhavi, an associate professor in the Department of Modern Languages and director of Arabic Studies, has translated into English "The Tree

Stump" by award-winning Jordanian novelist and playwright Samiha Khrais. This well-regarded Arabic novel documents the intricate details of the 1916–18 Arab revolt against their Turkish overlords with the aid of British forces. (Michigan State University Press, 2019)



VIOLENT EXTREMISTS: UNDERSTANDING THE DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST THREAT

Thomas R. Mockaitis, a professor in

the Department of History, has written a succinct but comprehensive work examining the hybrid nature of two violent extremist movements threatening the United States: radical Islamism and white nationalism. (ABC-CLIO, 2019)

IN BRIEF

EUAN HAGUE RECEIVES SCHOLAR-ADMINISTRATOR AWARD

The Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities has awarded Euan Hague, director of the School of Public Service and a professor of cultural and urban geography, the 2019 Barbara A. Holland Scholar-Administrator Award. The award recognizes his accomplishments in research-informed leadership in higher education. Hague also serves as director of the collaborative Urban Studies cluster, an affiliation of multiple degree-granting programs, departments and research centers at LAS.

SCOTT BUCKING EARNS 2019 ANTIQUITIES ENDOWMENT FUND GRANT

Scott Buckingham, an associate professor and director of DePaul's graduate program in history, received a 2019 Antiquities Endowment Fund grant from the American Research Center in Egypt. The \$75,000, one-year grant will aid the DePaul-sponsored Beni Hassan South Preservation Project. Directed by Buckingham, the project aims to conserve and document artifacts found at the project's archaeological site in Middle Egypt. The grant will enable urgent conservation work needed in light of recent agricultural threats and attempts at theft.

MAKING HEADLINES

LAS faculty are in the news. The Public Voices Thought Leader Fellows at DePaul are taking scholarly expertise to a general audience, providing critical context for complex and significant issues facing society.

For instance, Fernando De Maio, a sociology professor and co-director of the Center for Community Health Equity, argued in *Truthout* that inequities in our health care system both reflect and perpetuate social inequalities. Shailja Sharma, director of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, wrote on rising civic activism against right-wing hardliners in India for the *New York Daily News*.

"We're living in an age when the informed critical-thinking and analytical skills that academics possess cannot remain solely in the service of the academy. Our world needs creative solutions to a wide range of problems and diverse voices in policy making," says Vincent de Paul Professor of Media Studies Carolyn Bronstein, who directs the Public Voices Thought Leadership Fellowship Program, part of the nationally run Op-Ed Project that works to increase the range of voices and quality of ideas we hear in the world.

DePaul is one of the first universities in the nation to offer this fellowship program, according to Bronstein, who is also chairperson of the National Public Voices Advisory Council. Thanks to the program, DePaul Fellows from a wide range of colleges and schools are weighing in on everything from climate change to reproductive rights in opinion pieces that are being picked up by media outlets with global reach. For example, Lourdes Torres, professor of Latin American and Latino Studies, championed research about the critical role of bystander action in disrupting and undermining racist and violent rhetoric for the online magazine, *Latino Rebels*. Tracey Lewis-Elligan, associate professor and chair of the Department of Sociology, likewise educated readers of *The Hill* about the crisis of black maternal death rates—which are two to three times higher than that of white mothers—and outlined strategies for addressing it.

"At DePaul, we value the translation of scholarly knowledge to the public arena. It is an essential part of our ethical engagement with the world in which we live," explains Associate Dean Margaret Storey, also a graduate of the Op-Ed Project.

The *Art School* at LAS

LAS has added a new arts-forward school to its mix: The Art School (ART).

ART, formerly LAS's Department of Art, Media, and Design (AMD), has officially become a school, joining the School of Music, The Theatre School and the schools of Design, Cinematic Arts and Computing (the latter two in the College of Computing and Digital Media) as the latest addition to DePaul's arts community.

"We are thrilled that our unique and distinctive AMD department has now been elevated to a school," says Joanna Gardner-Huggett, LAS associate dean and associate professor of history of art and architecture.

The Art School will enhance DePaul's visibility as a studio art program. "As The Art School, we are being able to fulfill our open access for all students to a high-quality studio art program. We believe that we will be able to attract new students to DePaul on the local, regional, national and international levels," says M. A. Papanek-Miller, professor and chair of the Department of Art, Media and Design.

AMD offers five minors, two shared minors and three undergraduate degree programs: a BA in art, and a BA and BFA in art, media, and design. Students can concentrate their major in studio art, graphic art or photography and media art. The Art School will not undergo any curricular changes.

As a historically open-access studio art program, AMD has refrained from implementing any admissions portfolio requirements; all interested DePaul students can enroll in a studio art course. Portfolio requirements can be significant barriers for prospective students from under-resourced high schools where art programs have been eliminated and where talented students have no opportunity to build the kind of portfolio often required for admission at other institutions.

All 23 faculty members are practicing artists. Taking a tour of the department on the Lincoln Park Campus, one will find classrooms overflowing with students hard at work



Artwork by Alexandria Dravillas, who graduated in 2019 with a double major in Art, Media and Design and Psychology.

painting, sculpting, drawing, printmaking and making film and digital photographs. There are currently more than 130 AMD studio art classes offered annually.

Also unique to the department is a lending library where students enrolled in AMD courses can borrow audiovisual

equipment and are provided with startup art supplies for every class. "This is just another way our department—and soon school—shows our commitment to an open-access environment," adds Papanek-Miller.



Human Rights Advocate and Entrepreneur Credits His Success to DePaul

Adam Zarazinski (Political Science '07) had one criterion for choosing a university. "I wanted to go to a school that would broaden my worldview and get me involved in international relations," recalls the Arlington Heights, Ill., native.

Enter DePaul, which has traditionally offered an array of unique study abroad internship programs involving both foreign governments and international institutions. Zarazinski initially studied abroad in Dublin during his sophomore year, where he worked for a senator in the Irish Parliament. "It was just a great experience. I made great friends, and spent my days conducting research on how Ireland could grow its economy within the EU," he says.

The following year, he did it all again, this time interning for a Czech member of the European Parliament. He lived nearby, in Leuven, Belgium, and studied international relations at the Catholic University of Leuven.

These experiences set the foundation for a life of public service around the globe. "It gave me confidence that I could do valuable things in international relations early in my career, which if you think about it, is amazing for someone starting right out of college," he says.

Back at DePaul for his senior year, Zarazinski interned at the Council on Foreign Relations before graduating and heading to England to pursue a master's degree at the University of Nottingham on a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship. The only catch? Zarazinski wanted to study in Cairo.

"This was pre-Arab Spring, and I wanted to study what was then a growing human rights movement in Egypt," he says. But his request was denied due to safety issues. Still, he persisted until he was granted permission to go to Egypt. There he worked for a human rights organization and saw the makings of the nascent Arab Spring movement.

Thanks in large measure to his master's thesis on the revolution spreading across the Middle East, Zarazinski landed a coveted fellowship at the International Criminal Police Organization—better known as Interpol—headquartered in Lyon, France.

While his resume reads like that of an international man of mystery—he later spent time in Brazil, traveled the globe for the World Health Organization and earned a law degree from the University



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—Adam Zarazinski

of Michigan—Zarazinski took it up a notch by joining the U.S. Air Force as a judge advocate. After two years as a federal prosecutor at Joint Base Andrews, he deployed to Afghanistan and worked as an operations and intelligence law attorney.

Since 2009, Zarazinski has been running his own financial technology company, Inca Digital, which he founded with a former Interpol colleague, Evgeny Dmitriev. The company develops cryptofinance technology for hedge funds, banks and governments.

Although based in Washington, D.C., where Zarazinski lives with his wife and daughter, the Inca Digital team of mathematicians, engineers and information security experts works remotely from around the globe.

The impetus of Inca Digital is Vincentian. "I want to help society in some way and to make the world a better place when I leave it than when I entered it. At its core, cryptocurrency is an attempt to make the financial system more equal and inclusive," he says.

Behind Zarazinski's success, he says, is DePaul. "DePaul provided the intellectual foundation for everything I've done," he says. "It was by far the best educational experience I've had, and it's helped shape who I am today."

GLOBAL CITIZEN

For Michaela Milligan, China is her home away from home



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Michaela Milligan (Anthropology and Chinese Studies '19) started taking Mandarin lessons by chance.

She was in the eighth grade, and her carpool buddy, who was from China, was staying after school to take an independent study arranged by her parents. So Milligan joined in.

"She hardly ever went to the class, but I did and I really took to it," recalls the Ohio native, who graduated this past November with a double major in anthropology and Chinese studies, and a double minor in museum studies and history of art and architecture.

For Milligan, who was described affectionately by a DePaul faculty member as "living and breathing China," those lessons paved the way for a lifetime of immersion into Chinese language and culture. After figuring out how to spend time in China before starting college, Milligan spent her first year at a university in Vermont and then moved to Chicago to figure out her next steps.

While working at the Chicago Chinese Cultural Institute, she asked her boss where she should apply for college. "She told me, '112% you should go to DePaul. All of the best people I've hired come from DePaul, and they have a really good Chinese program,'" recalls Milligan.

DePaul soon became Milligan's home for the next three years. Academically gifted—she has a 3.9 GPA at DePaul—Milligan found that Chinese studies appealed to her intellectual curiosity. "Nothing in my life so far has challenged me mentally in the way that China has, both in terms of language and in terms of trying to see things from this other ontology," she says.

In recognition of her outstanding achievements, Milligan has been awarded numerous scholarships and honors. She was selected as one of only 40 delegates from around the world to attend the FACES Summit on U.S.-China relations at Stanford University.

Milligan received a grant from LAS's Undergraduate Research Fund to help mitigate the travel costs of attending the summit. "This was one of the highlights of my year. It was such a wonderful opportunity to have all these wonderful student delegates representing a really broad, diverse set of experiences and knowledge base to talk U.S.-China relations. If it hadn't been for the research fund, I would not have been able to attend," she says.

Milligan also received LAS's Community- and Project-Based Learning scholarship for an internship through the U.S. State Department's Virtual Student Federal Service program. Her specific task was researching the destruction of cultural heritage around the world for the Smithsonian Institution.

But one of her most prestigious accomplishments is being selected as a 2019 Lincoln Laureate, an honor bestowed on outstanding seniors from institutions of higher learning in Illinois. Milligan attended a special ceremony at the Illinois State House in November where she and her fellow laureates were recognized by Gov. JB Pritzker.

"Michaela is the type of student you always want to have in a classroom," says Li Jin, associate professor and director of the Chinese Studies Program. "Her interest in understanding Chinese culture and society is indefatigable. I can see her becoming a powerhouse contributing to positive U.S.-China relationships in the near future."

As Milligan prepares for the year ahead as a Fulbright scholar and plans for a career she hopes will be in academia, she looks back at her time at DePaul with appreciation.

"My career at DePaul has been very rewarding. I bring a different perspective, and I feel like that was embraced," she says. "I'm also grateful for all of the support from so many amazing faculty and the opportunities to travel and pursue my interest in China."